

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00200 140658Z
ACTION SS-25

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O R 120902Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 146
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T AMMAN 0200

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, JO, SY, EG, SA, KU, XF
SUBJECT: RIYADH CONFERENCE -- JORDANIAN IMPRESSIONS

1. ON JANUARY 11, I HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT ABDUL HAMID SHARAF. WHILE HE DID NOT ATTEND RIYADH CONFERENCE WHICH WOUND UP ITS WORK JANUARY 10, HE TOLD ME HE HAD RECEIVED A BRIEFING FROM PRIME MINISTER BADRAN WHO LED JORDAN'S DELEGATION.

2. ACCORDING TO SHARAF, BASIC DECISION WAS REACHED, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY RELEVANT ARAB HEADS OF STATE, TO RESUME RABAT PAYMENTS FOR 1977 AND 1978. FUNDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH FORMULA USED FOR 1975 PAYMENTS. ISSUE OF PAYMENTS FOR 1976 REMAINS UNRESOLVED, WITH DONOR STATES, LED BY KUWAIT, INSISTING THAT 1976 IS PASSED AND TIME CANNOT BE TURNED BACK TO RECOUP PAYMENTS FOR THAT YEAR. RECIPIENT STATES NATURALLY ARE INSISTING OTHERWISE. AFTER 1978, PAYMENTS QUESTION IS TO BE DISCUSSED FURTHER BY A MINI-SUMMIT OF ARAB LEADERS OF THE DONOR AND RECIPIENT STATES.

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3. SHARAF DID NOT KNOW WHEN THE HEADS OF STATE MIGHT RATIFY THE ARRANGEMENT OR WHEN OR HOW THE QUESTION OF 1976 PAYMENTS WOULD BE PURSUED FURTHER. PRESUMABLY THE LATTER QUESTION COULD BE CONSIDERED NEXT WEEK IN CAIRO WHEN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEET TO DISCUSS EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ISSUES ACCORDING TO SHARAF. THE ACTUAL TOTAL

OF PAYMENTS TO BE MADE IS ALSO SOMETHING OF AN UNCERTAINTY SINCE JORDAN RECEIVED APPROXIMATELY \$12 MILLION IN 1975 FROM IRAQ (OUT OF A TOTAL OF \$171 MILLION). BECAUSE IRAQ DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE RECENT CONFERENCE, JORDAN REALISTICALLY EXPECTS NOTHING FROM THAT QUARTER. IN THE PAST, WE RECALL, THE DONORS MADE A STATEMENT AT RABAT ABOUT THE AMOUNT THEY WOULD CONTRIBUTE, PLEDGES WERE LATER MADE AT APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT OF THAT AMOUNT, AND FINAL DELIVERIES OF CHECKS CAME IN AT AN EVEN LOWER LEVEL. ON THE WHOLE SHARAF SAYS THAT JORDANIAN PRIME MINISTER BADRAN SEES MANY HURDLES STILL TO CROSS BEFORE ANY FUNDS ARE DELIVERED. IN ADDITION, BADRAN COMMENTED TO SHARAF THAT IT WAS AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT CONFERENCE WHERE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS HE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE HAD THE GATHERING BREAK UP WITH NO RESULT RATHER THAN CONTINUE. ONLY AT THE LAST MOMENT WAS ANY BREAK-THROUGH MADE. KUWAIT, ACCORDING TO THE JORDANIANS, LED THE CHARGE FOR THE DOROR STATES AND WAS THE MOST STUBBORN AND DIFFICULT TO BRING AROUND TO THE COMMON VIEW WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY EVOLVED AS DESCRIBED ABOVE. SHARAF SAID THAT CONFERENCE DISCUSSED ONLY THE QUESTION OF RABAT PAYMENTS.

4. IN SIDE CONVERSATIONS WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND MODA PRINCE SULTAN, JORDANIANS AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF THEIR FY 1976 FMS CREDITS FROM THE US WHICH THEY WISH SAUDIS TO GUARANTEE. SULTAN WAS THIS TIME APPARENTLY AWARE OF THE ISSUE ALTHOUGH FAHD CLAIMED
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NOT TO BE. FAHD PROMISED HE WOULD STUDY THE QUESTION AND THAT "INSHALLAH" SOON THERE WOULD BE A HAPPY RESULT.
PICKERING

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